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An Exact

CHARACTER

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NARRATIVE

OF

The late right Noble, and magnificent LORD,

Oliver Cromvvell,

The Lord Protector of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*; With the *Dominions* thereof.

Together with a brief Recapitulation (or *Declaration*) of His many Miraculous Victories, Virtues, and Atchievements, throughout the three Nations.

With His *Deceaſe* on *Friday*, the 3d of *Septemb.* 1658. being above 60 years of Age; And the Election of His eldeſt Son the Lord *Richard*, to be *Lord Protector* of *England*, *Scotland*, & *Ireland*, &c. With the Proclaiming of His Highneſs on *Saturday*, (the 4th inſtant) throughout the Cities of *London*, and *Weſtminſter*.

Written by T. l'W. *of the Middle-Temple* London, *for the preſent peruſal of all honeſt Patriots: And now Printed and Publiſhed for general ſatisfaction of the People.*

——— *Vivet poſt funera Virtus.*

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An Exact

CHARACTER

OF

The late Right Noble, and magnificent LORD,

Oliver Cromvvell,

The Lord Protector of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*.

HE was born at *Huntington*, of Honourable Parents, and anciently of the Name and Family of *Williams's*, Gentlemen of Note, in the County of *Glamorgan* in *South-wales*; which in the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, was changed into the Name of *CROMWELL*.

He had his Education in the University of *Cambridge*, whence he came to *Lincolnes-Inn*, where we find him not to have spent over much time in the ſtuddy of the Laws; but for the bettering of his underſtanding, rather employ'd his ſtudies, in reading of men, then to

dwell on the book, as being naturally more inclined, and affecting the practick part, then the theorick; though in the Liberal Sciences he was not to seek of a competent share of learning.

Doubtlesse he was a great proficient, both in the knowledge of men and books, and a great observer of the Generall affaires of the World, which appeared not openly, untill opportunity gave him the help, where, and how, to shew what he was, and would be, in the active part, and Military employment, wherein even from the first beginning to the last of the late unnatural Warrs, on the very first unsheathing of the Sword, he sided with the Parliament, and constantly stood firme and truly in the upholding the established Religion, the Laws of the Land, and Liberryes of his Country, even to the very period of his dayes, and in a most devout profession, and defending of them altogether, with the priviledges of Parliament, of the breach of which, none was more tender, and fought more Valiantly for their preservation, without the least tergiversation or backsliding from that party to which he adheared.

At the very beginning of the Warr, he was no more then a Captaine of a Horse Troop, which out of a publique spirit, and zeal to the cause, he first raised at his own charge, and by degrees (not by leaps) he deservedly came to higher Commands, having soon attained to the reputation of a most expert, skilfull, vigilent, and indefatigable Souldier, even to the wonder & admiration of his assistants, and shortly after came to be (by the Parliaments prudent choice) Commander in chief; his then miraculous atchievements considered, both in absolute finishing, and putting an end to the fury of the Warr in England, and stopping of that wide Orifice of blood, which ran throughout most parts of the Kingdom, during the full tearme of six yeares, his then expeditious reducing of *Ireland*, and *South Wales*, with that which is of more remarke, the overthrow of *Duke Hambletons* Invading Army, the Kirk Armys at *Dunbar*, together with the reducing of all the Kingdom of *Scotland*, his there defeating of *Charles Stuart's* Army at *Worcester*; and all this done (as we say) in a trice; so that to attribute these wonderful Victoryes to blind Fortune, would be a derogation to Gods great providence, which we may safely believe guided him in all these enterprizes.

Neither

Neither muſt we omit, how then he ſetled the Natives of the 3 Kingdomes, with thoſe of the Principality, in a firm Peace, contrary to the expectation of all men, ſo that, without flattery, it may be ſaid of him, as it is of *Caſar*, that *Venit, Vidit, & Vicit*, that is, *He came, he ſaw, and he conquered.*

His next great work was, the Reformation of the Churches affairs, too much diſeaſed and disjoynted by the admiſſion thereinto of too many idoll, ignorant, and debauch't Miniſters; but that which is more remarkable, is, that of eſtabliſhing the Peace of the three Kingdomes, under ſuch an Ariſtocraticall Government, that every man that will, may ſecurely ſleep under his own Vine, and enjoy their eſtates, without fear of farther blood-ſhed, rapine and plunder.

He married into the ancient and noble Family of the *Bourchers*, ſometimes Earls of *Eſſex*, by whom he had two Sons, the Lord *Richard*, lately made Protector, in his Father's room, and the Lord *Henry*, now Lord Deputy of *Ireland*, Perſons, of great honor, hopes, and abilityes, and four Daughters, all Ladies of eminent vertues: The Lady *Bridget*, his eldeſt, firſt married to the Lord *Ireton*, lately, Lord Deputy of *Ireland*, and ſince his Deceaſe, to the right noble Lord *Charles Fleetwood*: the Lady *Elizabeth*, his 2d Daughter, married to the Lord *Claypole*, lately deceaſed: the Lady *Mary*, his third Daughter, married to the right honourable the Lord Viſcount *Fauconberg*; the Lady *Francis* his fourth, and youngeſt, Daughter, married to the right honourable *Robert Rich*, Grand-child to the right honourable the Earl of *Warwick*, lately Lord Admirall of *England*, during moſt of the time of the War between the late King and Parliament: And all theſe his Children, married and honourably diſpoſed of in his life-time; ſo that we may truly ſay, that he lived, to be an Eye-witneſs of God's great Mercy & Bleſſings, powred on himſelf and whole Family, even to admiration, if we look upon the diſaſters of other families, wherein we aſſidually ſee the Father, and the Children to be disjoyned by death, and left to the wide World, to ſeek their livelihoods, out of the cold Charity of Kindred, and ſuch as take no care either for their Education, or Maintenance.

Now,

Now, as to his Perſon, he was tall, well ſet, and well proportioned, throughout the whole Lineaments and Dimenſions of his Body, and a moſt Active, Vigilant, Wary, and Circumſpect Commander, in all his Martiall Employments, even to the wonder of the Times; and of an high extraordinary Head-peece, yet he dayned not to be counſelled, even in moſt of his leſſer Affairs.

As to his Intellectuals, Gifts, and Abilities, of his Mind, they were without compare, ſuited to that Great Work, whereunto (as we may ſafely beleive) Almighty God in his great providence, had pre-ordained Him to accompliſh, in vindicating the Religion, Laws, and Liberties of his Country; wherein he acted the part both of an expert Souldier, a merciful General, a moſt zealous defender of Gods Truth, and freed the three Nations from blood, rapine, and Tyranny, ſettled and eſtabliſhed them all in peace and quietneſſe; which if it be rightly taken into conſideration, manifeſtly ſhews, That He alone was by God appointed to this moſt Important work, and *Herculian* Labour; which we ſee him to have nobly performed, without vainglory, oſtentation, or boaſting; but in a fair, quier, deliberate, and modeſt temper of mind, & toyl of body: for we find Him not ſubject to paſſion, lordlineſſe, ſtatelineſſe, or preſumption, (the common and inſeparable flawes and faults of greatneſſe) but of an even, grave, ſtayed, patient and affable comportment towards all men, and of all ſorts, whether high or low, eſpecially towards the diſtreſſed; yet of a very high, vaſt, and incomparable Judgment, without the leaſt tincture of pride, rage or fury.

He was alwayes exceeding loving towards Her, that had the Honour of His bed: and a moſt Tender and Indulgent Father, towards all thoſe which God had ſent Him, by the only dear Conſort both of his youth, and old age: a happineſſe and bleſſing ſeldome ſeen to accompany old and young to their graves: and to ſee their Iſſues honourably diſpoſed of in his life time; which is a viſible ſigne and argument, that God had beſtowed this great bleſſing upon Him, and His.

He lived to be an eye-witneſſe of the perferment of all his offſpring to honour and greatneſſe, and to leave behind him ſuch a pattern of piety, zeal to the publique intereſt, and ſuch an abundant example of Charity, towards all men in diſtreſſe, as cannot be parralel'd

rallel'd in any we have known; And although we have no Monuments of Him left us in Stones, and Structures, yet have we infinite Presidents of his bounty and liberality to poor maimed Souldiers, & distressed people of either Sex, which are the Images of the Creator; on whom it is credibly reported, that out of his innated compassion, he bestowed not so little as 40000 l. *per annum*, out of his own purse, and the allowance conferd on Him by the State for the honour of the Nations, and His Court: so that we find Him not any wayes noted of covetousnesse, yet frugal and sparing in all His expences; so far as suted with Honour and His place.

He came to be *PROTECTOR* in a very seasonable time, for the honour and support of his Country, and at a time when as there was no Steers-man at the Helm; and 'tis a question, not easily to be resolved, whether then, there could be any One found fit to undergo a place of such Unweildinesse and Trust, other then Himself, which he faithfully underwent, and discharged, with as much Honour, Integrity, and Applause, (even of his Enemies) as possibly could be expected.

He undertook this Unweildy and Burthensom Place, on the period of the Wars in all the three Kingdomes, *Decemb.* 16. 1653. and ended the troublesome course of his life (at the Age of above 60 years) on the third of *September*; on which Day, he obtained those two Admirable Victories, at *Dunbar* and *Worcester*; which same Day, being formerly a day of Labour to him; God was now graciously pleased to make it a Day of Rest, by taking him to Himself. He was magnified and beloved of all honest-hearted men; and we believe as little hated of any, as we have read of, living in the splendour of Command and Greatnesse; having reduced the Three Kingdoms in a settled Peace, and Quietnesse, to the wonder of the World, and contrary to the general expectation of the best Judgments.

The

The Lord *RICHARD* his eldeſt Son being the next day proclaimed *LORD PROTECTOR* of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*; A Perſon, on whom the Hopes of the Nations grow ſtrong, That he (as he ſucceeds ſo Illuſtrious a Father) will not degenerate from the Virtues of ſuch an unparallell'd Parent.

To ſpeak more in his praiſe, would be a leſſening to his Worth and Merits, and happily a means to draw envy on the Author, who hath written this little (much too ſcanty) for his great and miraculous Atchievements, his famous Victories, and everlaſting praiſe; which in times to come will (doubtleſſe) be augmented to a Volume; which happily the Nation ſhall ſhortly ſee.

God in his great mercy ſo bleſſe and proſper his Hopefull Succeſſour, that he may be a Religions Imitator of Him, who is at Reſt; and that he may be to theſe Nations ſuch a Patriot, as preceeded him, in the Government. Which is cordially wiſh'd by him, who ſubſcribes

T. L. W. of the Middle-Temple, *London*.

FINIS.